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# NEWS

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**EPA SELECTS ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY FOR A REGIONAL BROWNFIELDS  
PILOT PROJECT GRANT**

NEW YORK, N.Y.--- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator Jeanne M. Fox today announced that the City of Elizabeth, New Jersey has been selected for a \$200,000 regional grant through EPA's Brownfields pilot program. The goal of the Brownfields program is to facilitate the productive reuse of old industrial properties where redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

"The Clinton Administration's Brownfields Initiative is good for the environment and good for the economy," said Ms. Fox. "The city has had redevelopment success within the last four years which has attracted more business inquiries. Some of the interested parties are cautious because of possible environmental liability associated with brownfields.

"This pilot will bring EPA expertise and resources into the mix to help Mayor Bollwage address these concerns and keep brownfields in the mainstream of general economic revitalization in Elizabeth," she explained.

"I would like to thank President Clinton and Jeanne Fox for her

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hard work and cooperation in working with the city on this economic initiative," Bollwage said. "There are total of 56 brownfields in the City of Elizabeth alone --- these sites represent opportunity, the opportunity to create new industry, jobs, housing and more tax ratables. We have been able to focus our resources on rehabilitating several of these properties --- and our successes have been monumental. On one property, we built an IKEA store, which has become the chains best performing store, and a Toys R Us Superstore, the largest of its kind in the chain. Another current brownfield is under remediation, and we will shortly begin construction on a 1.5 million square foot outlet mall."

Brownfields projects bring together community leaders, investors, developers and citizens to work together and develop their own plans to turn economically abandoned areas into environmentally safe, economically attractive areas.

The pilot project in Elizabeth will focus on the identification and assessment of five marketable brownfields. At these sites, the pilot will assist in assessment and redevelopment strategies.

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